

- (i) chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons, agents, or materials;
- (ii) land or sea mines or similar explosive devices; or
- (iii) unexploded ordnance.

2. The function performed by USAID in awarding the contract to which paragraph 1 refers is a function connected with the national defense. There are currently national emergencies that have been declared by the President in accordance with applicable law. I deem that the authorization provided by paragraph 1 and actions taken pursuant to that authorization would facilitate the national defense.

3. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:33 a.m., April 18, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on April 21.

Proclamation 7665—National Park Week, 2003

April 18, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America is a land of majestic beauty, and we are blessed with immeasurable natural wealth. Americans are united in the belief that we must preserve this treasured heritage and conserve these natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people.

As a Nation, we can be proud of our diverse parklands, ranging from the rugged wilderness of snow-capped mountains, thick forests, sweeping desert sands, and remote canyons to national symbols such as the Statue of Liberty and the Lincoln Memorial. Our National Park Service has a long and important history. In 1864, the Federal Government ensured a grand natural landscape for generations to come when it designated Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias to be “held for public use, re-

sort, and recreation . . . inalienable for all time.” Eight years later in 1872, the Congress created the first national park in the Yellowstone region of the Territories of Montana and Wyoming. Finally, in 1916, the National Park Service was established to efficiently administer our growing number of parks, which today includes 388 national parks on more than 84 million acres of public lands. These lands continue to be cherished by all our citizens.

The full and safe enjoyment of our national parks depends on dedicated National Park Service employees and thousands of people who volunteer their time to conserve these sites. This year’s theme for National Park Week, “Celebrating Volunteers,” recognizes their valuable contributions to conserving and maintaining our natural, cultural, and historical heritage.

Across the country, my Administration is promoting volunteer service, encouraging public-private partnerships, and advocating community-based interest in our national parks. We are committed to ensuring that our land is conserved, our air is clean, our water is pure, and our parks are open and accessible to all Americans. Recently, my Administration re-launched Take Pride in America, a national partnership that engages volunteers from every corner of America to enhance our parks and other public lands. As part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, Take Pride in America will encourage more Americans to take part in volunteer service opportunities available on public lands.

My Administration has also supported improvements in park management and is working to reduce the park maintenance backlog. My fiscal year 2004 budget includes over \$1 billion to reduce the maintenance backlog, an increase of \$180 million over last year’s request, along with \$76 million, a \$9 million increase over last year’s request, for the National Park Service Natural Resource Challenge to monitor “vital signs” of conditions in our parks. This initiative will help conserve native species and habitats, maintain our natural resources, eradicate invasive species, and provide the public with information about resources in our parks. In addition, my Administration has developed the website www.recreation.gov, which is a user-

friendly way to obtain information about recreational opportunities in the national parks and other public recreation sites.

As we observe National Park Week, I encourage all citizens to explore our national parks and to commit to the conservation and stewardship of these timeless treasures. By working together, we can ensure that these special places thrive for generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2003, as National Park Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of our national parks and to learn more about these areas of beauty, their historical significance, and the many ways citizens can volunteer to help preserve these precious resources.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 22, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 23.

**Executive Order 13296—
Amendments to Executive Order
13296, Protection of Children From
Environmental Health Risks and
Safety Risks**

April 18, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, and for other purposes, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13045 of April 21, 1997, as amended, is further amended as follows:

Section 1. Subsection 3–303(o) is amended by striking “Assistant to the President and”.

Sec. 2. Section 3–305 is amended by:

(a) striking “cabinet agencies and other agencies identified” and inserting in lieu thereof “executive departments, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies identified”; and

(b) inserting the following new language after the second sentence: “Each report shall also detail the accomplishments of the Task Force from the date of the preceding report.”

Sec. 3. Section 3–306 is amended by:

(a) striking “6 years” and inserting in lieu thereof “8 years”; and

(b) striking the second sentence.

Sec. 4. Section 6–601, the second sentence, is amended by deleting “an annual” and inserting “a biennial” in lieu thereof.

Sec. 5. Section 6–603, the third sentence, is amended by deleting “submitted annually” and inserting “published biennially” in lieu thereof.

Sec. 6. Section 7 is amended by adding new section 7–703 as follows: “7–703. Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 18, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 22, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 23.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.
